CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating between one and a plurality of devices, comprising:

receiving, from a device, input to an application data stream;

receiving an output from the application data stream based on the received input and input from the plurality of other devices; and

providing the output to the device and the plurality of devices at substantially a same time, wherein only the output from the application data stream is shared by the device and the plurality of devices.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein output from the application data stream is shared by the device and the plurality of devices using a data stream splitter.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data stream splitter is dynamically constructed to provide shared access to the application data stream.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a pseudo-terminal for the device.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein output received by the data stream splitter from the application data stream is sent to the pseudo-terminal and data received by the pseudo-terminal from the device is sent to the data stream splitter.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving input to the application data stream includes:

cycling through entries in a data stream splitter table to identify entries associated with the data stream splitter; and

cyclically providing the device and other devices access to the application data stream based on the cycling through the entries in the data stream splitter table.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a data stream splitter to handle access to the application data stream if the application data stream is not already being handled by another data stream splitter; and

adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for the device and the data stream splitter.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving input to an application data stream, receiving output from an application data stream, and the providing steps are performed by a data stream splitter manager.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein, when the data stream splitter manager receives a request for access to the application data stream from the device, the data stream splitter manager forks a copy of itself to handle the access to the application data stream for that device.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the data stream splitter manager is transparent to a user of the device.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the data stream splitter manager includes a graphical user interface.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing data from the data stream in a buffer, wherein when the device is first provided access to the data stream, the contents of the buffer are streamed to the device.

13. A method of providing a device shared access to a data stream, comprising:

receiving a request for access to the data stream from a device;

adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for the device; and

providing the device access to the data stream via a data stream splitter in accordance with the entry in the data stream splitter table, wherein providing the device access includes providing output from the data stream to the device and sending input from the device to the data stream, and wherein the output from the data stream is provided in a realtime manner based on the input from the device and input received from at least one other device.

14. A method of providing a plurality of devices shared access to a data stream, comprising:

receiving, from a device, input to the data stream;

generating data stream output based on the input from the device; and

supplying the data stream output to other devices of the plurality of devices in a sequential manner, wherein the input is non-blocking raw input that is received as the device generates the input on a character by

character basis, and wherein the data stream output is generated on a character by character basis as the input is received.

15. A method of providing shared access to a bi-directional data stream, comprising:

cycling through entries in a data stream splitter table, each entry in the data stream splitter table identifying a client device;

sending data from the data stream to the client device identified in each entry based on the cycling through of the entries; and

receiving data from the client device identified in each entry, based on the cycling through of the entries, and sending the data from the client device to the bi-directional data stream.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein access to the data stream is shared by a plurality of client devices based on the entries in the data stream splitter table, each of the client devices having full access to the data stream.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the client devices have a private communication channel to the data stream but the output from the data stream is shared by all of the client devices.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the sending and receiving steps are performed by a data stream splitter.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the data stream splitter is dynamically constructed to provide shared

access to the data stream.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein sending data from the data stream to the client device includes sending data from the data stream splitter to a pseudo-terminal associated with the client device.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving data from the client device includes receiving data from the client device via a pseudo-terminal associated with the client device.

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22. The method of claim 18, wherein the data stream splitter provides non-blocking raw input/output access to the data stream.

23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for providing a device shared access to a data stream, comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request for access to the data stream from a device;

second instructions for adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for the device; and

third instructions for providing the device access to the data stream via a data stream splitter in accordance with the entry in the data stream splitter table.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein access to the data stream is shared with other devices, each of the device and the other devices having full access to the data stream.

25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the device is provided a private communication channel to the data stream but the output from the data stream is shared by the device and other devices.

26. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising fourth instructions for dynamically constructing the data stream splitter to provide shared access to the data stream.

27. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising fourth instructions for establishing a pseudo-terminal for the device.

28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein data received by the data stream splitter from the data stream is sent to the pseudo-terminal and data received by the pseudo-terminal from the device is sent to the data stream splitter.

29. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the third instructions for providing the device access to the data stream include:

fourth instructions for cycling through the data stream splitter table to identify entries associated with the data stream splitter; and

fifth instructions for cyclically providing the device and other devices access to the data stream based on the cycling through the data stream splitter table.

30. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising fourth instructions for determining if access

to the data stream is being handled by a data stream splitter, wherein the second instructions for adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for the device include instructions for adding the entry to a data stream splitter table associated with the data stream splitter.

31. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the first, second and third instructions are implemented by a data stream splitter manager.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising fourth instructions for forking a copy of the data stream splitter manager to handle the access to the data stream for that device, when the data stream splitter manager receives the request from the device.

33. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

fourth instructions for storing data from the data stream in a buffer; and

fifth instructions for streaming the contents of the buffer to the device when the device is first provided access to the data stream.

34. An apparatus for providing a device shared access to a data stream, comprising:

a data stream splitter; and

a data stream splitter manager coupled to the data stream splitter, wherein the data stream splitter manager receives a request for access to the data stream from a device, adds an entry to a data stream splitter table for

the device, and provides the device access to the data stream via the data stream splitter in accordance with the entry in the data stream splitter table.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein access to the data stream is shared with other devices, each of the device and the other devices having full access to the data stream.

36. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter provides the device a private communication channel to the data stream but the output from the data stream is shared by the device and other devices.

37. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter is dynamically constructed by the data stream splitter manager to provide shared access to the data stream.

38. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter manager establishes a pseudo-terminal for the device.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein data received by the data stream splitter from the data stream is sent to the pseudo-terminal and data received by the pseudo-terminal from the device is sent to the data stream splitter.

40. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter manager provides the device access to the data stream by:

cycling through the data stream splitter table to identify entries associated with the data stream splitter; and

cyclically providing the device and other devices access to the data stream based on the cycling through the data stream splitter table.

41. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter manager determines if access to the data stream is being handled by a data stream splitter, wherein adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for the device includes adding the entry to a data stream splitter table associated with the data stream splitter.

42. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, when the data stream splitter manager receives the request from the device, the data stream splitter manager forks a copy of itself to handle the access to the data stream for that device.

43. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter manager is transparent to a user of the device.

44. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter manager includes a graphical user interface.

45. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data stream splitter provides non-blocking raw input/output access to the data stream.

46. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a buffer, wherein data from the data stream is stored in

the buffer, and wherein when the device is first provided access to the data stream, the contents of the buffer are streamed to the device.

47. A method of communicating between one and a plurality of devices, comprising:

receiving from at least two of the plurality of devices, input to an application;

combining the input from the at least two of the plurality of devices to produce combined output; and

simultaneously outputting the combined output at each of the plurality of devices.

48. A method of communicating between one and a plurality of devices, comprising:

receiving, from a device, input to an application;

receiving an output from the application based on the received input and input from one or more of the plurality of other devices; and

providing the output to each of the plurality of devices at substantially a same time.

49. A method of displaying an output display from an application shared by a plurality of devices, comprising:

receiving input from at least two of the plurality of devices;

combining the input from the at least two of the plurality of devices; and

displaying, substantially simultaneously, an output display based on the combined input from the at least two of the plurality of devices at the at least two of the plurality of devices.